



Boston Connects, Incorporated
Boston Empowerment Zone
2201 Washington Street

BOARD MINUTES
September 30, 2003

Members Present: Mike Vance-*President*, Robert Kinney-*Vice President*, Mike Foley-*Treasurer*, Joe-Lee Baker Bey, Reverend Gerald Bell, Judy Flashner, Michael Glavin, Betty Greene, George Greenidge, Joanne Hilferty, Mark Maloney, Elizabeth Miranda, Valerie Pruitt, Frederick Umeh, Juanita Wade and John Wagner.

Members Absent: Gloria Coney-*Secretary*, Ralph Cooper, Charlotte Golar Richie, Thomas Yee

BCI Staff: Christine Araujo, Shirley Carrington, Inez Foster, Sherry O'Brien,

EDIC Staff: Michelle Trousil

EDIC Staff: Senator Diane Wilkerson, Candace Sealey (Congressman Capuano's office)
Deborah Griswold U.S HUD Boston Office

Guests: Karen Jardine and Deborah Brown (HUD interns- Government of Northern Ireland), Cheryl Snyder, Keith Hunt (Office of Business Development)

Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m by Mr. Kinney and chaired the meeting at the request of Mr. Vance.

Introductions were made.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve July 22, 2003 minutes, subject to the correct spelling of Mrs. Greene's name.

By: Mrs. Greene

Second: Mr. Baker Bey

Recused: 0

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

Motion: **Carried**

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Vance distributed a copy of his report. The Executive Committee met to discuss: committee reports and votes; Board vacancies and the priority to make recommendations to the full Board to ensure a full complement of Board members by the end of this fiscal year; and the planned re-entry initiatives for which Mr. Vance thanked Bro. Kinney for his leadership. Progress is on going on the disclosure of interest and financial audit.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Araujo reminded the members of the Board election on November 1, 2003 from 8:am until 2:pm. Districts 2, 8 and 9 will hold elections. Volunteers are welcome. District 7 did not receive any nominations, and therefore will not have an election. Seats in Districts 3, 4 and 6 also remain vacant. Ms. Araujo asked the board for help in attracting board members to serve.

Discussion ensued on how to draw more residents into board member positions. Suggestions on outreach included mailing information to individual households in specific districts; or piggy backing on monthly mailings by organizations such as NStar, BostonEdison etc.



Ms. Araujo directed the members to the board package which included the nomination forms submitted by the September 17, 2003 deadline. Candidate orientation is scheduled for Wednesday October 1, 2003.

Motion: To certify the following as candidates for the Boston Connects, Inc. Board Elections:

District 2	Roxbury	Ms. Lillie M. Boyd
		Ms. Gloria Coney
District 8	Roxbury	Mr. Joelee Baker-Bey
		Ms. Erika Butler
		Ms. Donovan Walker
District 9	Dorchester	Mr. Robert Kinney
		Ms. Deborah Mason

By: Mr. Wagner Second: Mrs. Greene
Recused: 0 Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0
Motion: Carried

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Capacity Building

Mr. Baker Bey announced that the second Grant Writing workshop will begin in the second week of October. A space has been identified and 15 applications have been received. He looks forward to another successful course.

B. Ex-Offender Initiative

Bro. Kinney reported that thanks to lots of stakeholders and many Board members, progress is being made on the ex-offender initiative. He directed members to the working draft of the Action Plan included in the Board packages. The group is presently thinking of planning a kick-off event on December 3, 2003. All are welcome to attend the meetings. More details will follow. Jobs, working with employers and bringing additional resources to address the issues are all items the advisory committee has focused on. Bro. Kinney asked Board members to let him know of other resources that might be available.

On review of the Action Plan, Ms. Wade suggested the group include the SORI (Sexual Offense Record Investigation) in the reintegration plan. Mr. Wagner added that with the revamping of the Massachusetts Food Stamp Program an average food stamp grant is now \$130 to \$140 for a single person. This can be a valuable resource to those recently released.

C. Economic Development

Mr. Maloney apologized that the proposed vote on the EDI/108 allocation to the Boston Redevelopment Authority for the purchase of the site to support the Department of Public Health move to Dudley Square had not been included with the Board package. Mr. Vance expressed concern that the proposed vote did not go through the Executive Committee and was not distributed prior to the Board meeting.

After discussion by the Board on process and the determination that the project was discussed at the Economic Development Committee, there was general agreement that the Board would proceed with the vote.

Motion: To reallocate \$5,433,263 in EDI/HUD 108 Funds to the Boston Redevelopment Authority for the acquisition of the DSE and Manchioneal properties located in Dudley Square for the future development of the new Massachusetts Department of Public Health building.

By: Mrs. Greene Second: Mr. Foley
Recused: 0 Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0
Motion: Carried

4. PROCUREMENTS

A. Technology

In reference to offering Community Technology Education by funding community organizations that will provide technology services in the zone, Ms. Araujo presented the vote as follows:

Motion: To authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of BCI, to enter into two year contracts with the following agencies to provide access to technology to approximately 1100 slots to Zone residents.



By: Mr. Glavin Second: Mr. Foley
Recused: 2 (Ms. Hilferty) Abstained: 2 (Rev. Bell) Opposed: 1 (Mr. Baker-Bey)
(Mr. Vance) (Mrs. Greene)
Motion: Carried

In the discussion of the \$134,000 proposed expenditure to fund 25 seats in the English for Employment procurement to fund ABCD (in collaboration with Asian Community Development Corp.) for \$55,000 to provide services in child care and Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries (in collaboration with African Community Economic Development and Oficina Hispana) for \$79,000 to provide customer training services for two years, the discussion centered on whether Boston Connects could promote collaborations between organizations which: the respondents themselves did not propose; and had not been discussed with the respondents. The discussion culminated in the following:

Motion: To table the vote to fund English for Employment services until the October Board meeting.

By: Mr. Glavin Second: Mr. Wagner
Recused: 2 (Ms. Hilferty) Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0
(Mr. Vance)

Motion: Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

A true record attest:

Gloria Coney, Clerk

Date

